

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 23, 2004

6:30 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Board members present were Chair Hilda Testa, Vice-Chair Julie Aitken, Jacque Daniels and Jason Hurley. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 27, 2004

Vice-Chair Aitken made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daniels, to approve the minutes of January 27, 2004. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Equine Hurricane Turn-out

Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that she was unable to provide the maps as promised, however, she suggested that staff get aerial maps showing Robbins Equestrian Park, Van Kirk property, Oakhill Equestrian Park, Vista View Park and Tree Tops Park, all locations that the Board was considering for a hurricane shelter. Chair Testa indicated that the Broward County parks could not be included unless the Town contacted the County on behalf of the Board. She suggested that a letter be written to the County on behalf of the Board with a proposal for the hurricane shelter at Vista View Park. Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that the letter be written to Broward County Commissioner Lori Parrish since the park was in her district. A brief discussion followed with different ideas presented as to the wording of the letter to Commissioner Parrish. Vice-Chair Aitken advised that the letter should not be too formal, or in lieu of the letter, Chair Testa could telephone Commissioner Parrish. Chair Testa indicated that the Disaster Relief Team had plans for post-hurricane; however, she felt that the focus should be on pre-hurricane issues.

The Board devoted a lengthy discussion to the hurricane shelter, size, the number of stalls that would be erected, stall protection and a variety of services that would be provided.

Chair Testa asked who on staff would be responsible for providing the aerial maps and she was informed that there was a GIS person on staff.

Chair Testa spoke of her discouragement by the Town to rent the arena to non-Davie residents. She indicated that the Trailriders were told that the arena had to remain open for Davie residents to enjoy whenever they wanted. Vice-Chair Aitken referred to birthday parties being held there; however, Chair Testa indicated that these were held at the pavilion.

Vice-Chair Aitken referred to a horse park being developed in Southwest Ranches which was plagued with controversy. Chair Testa commented that she understood the Town's position on not wanting to rent the arena for "horse" activities; however, she would like to see an exception made several times per year when the arena could be used.

Chair Testa explained that the Board should decide on the type of presentation to be made to Council and the pros and cons of the hurricane shelter should be listed in order to open their eyes to the possibilities. The Board discussed the pros and cons of the hurricane shelter with each Boardmember explaining different scenarios that took place previously during hurricane season. Chair Testa indicated that many residents had been unprepared for the torrential rain and Ms. Daniels indicated that many horses had been damaged from standing in high levels of water.

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 23, 2004

Chair Testa commented that she hoped that once the presentation was made to Council, there would be a commitment on their part that the hurricane shelter was necessary. She added that if Council was receptive to the idea, the Board would give its suggestion concerning sponsors and work days to equestrian groups.

3.2 How to Inform Residents of Equine/Agricultural Activities

Chair Testa referred to the "Rural Lifestyles" corner in the Davie Update and indicated that she did not want a giant article. She added that once more people saw the Update she would get more calls. Chair Testa indicated that she would like Board members to present items for the article at every meeting as well as agricultural/equestrian events taking place in Davie or a telephone number to get information for a program that could be listed in the Davie Update. Vice-Chair Aitken mentioned events for the EASE Foundation; however, Chair Testa commented that the sponsor was not based in Davie.

Chair Testa asked if the Boardmembers knew who to contact regarding 4-H events. Ms. Daniels provided a contact name and telephone number, adding she could provide additional names. Chair Testa suggested that she send her an e-mail with those names. She indicated that there were approximately six half-acre nurseries in her neighborhood whose owners she had initially contacted by going door-to-door and she was not looking forward to repeating this. These nursery owners were not aware that the Board existed or that they were entitled to an agricultural exemption even though they had a small nursery.

3.3 Property Appraiser Issues

Chair Testa referred to a previous meeting which was attended by Mayor Truex where the Board indicated that the Town should get more involved in issues with the Property Appraiser's Office as it pertained to the assault by that Office on Davie farmers. She referred to the death of Property Appraiser William Markham and asked how this would affect the farmers. Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that the Governor would be appointing an interim Property Appraiser. A brief discussion followed with the names of four possible appointees being mentioned. Vice-Chair Aitken commented that she had sent an e-mail to the Governor opposing the appointment of anyone who had been a part of the late Property Appraiser's administration.

The Board devoted a lengthy discussion to issues with the Property Appraiser's Office and how it affected Davie farmers, ideas were presented as to how the Town could assist, with the consensus that letters could be written by Council on a case-by-case basis. Vice-Chair Aitken suggested that a policy statement issued by Council might help, while Chair Testa suggested that the Town could be asked to write a letter on behalf of certain property owners indicating that they have a farm determination, and that the Town had determined that they were a farm and this was in line with State Statutes. Vice-Chair Aitken suggested that the Board work out an appropriate language for letters and make a formal request to the Town Administrator. Mr. Hurley commented that on a case-by-case basis, there could be no harm in having Council or staff send a letter to the Property Appraiser's Office indicating that the action taken was contrary to the action by the Town in order to promote agriculture within the Town. Vice-Chair Aitken referred to the strong resolution by Vice-Mayor Paul, and reiterated that Council could issue a

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 23, 2004

policy statement to the Property Appraiser's Office. Chair Testa spoke of the Town's farm determination program explaining the process involved.

A brief discussion followed regarding farm determination with Mr. Hurley indicating that problems may arise between the constitutional office of the Property Appraiser and the Town. He added that the Town had no jurisdiction over the Property Appraiser office.

Vice-Chair Testa suggested that a "blurb" be placed in the "Rural Lifestyles" in the Davie Update advising farmers that if they were having problems with their agricultural exemption to contact the Board. She suggested that it would be a better idea to contact the Town Administrator Thomas Willi with an individual in mind. Vice-Chair Aitken suggested that a note be placed in the Davie Update indicating the Davie Farmers' Guide was available at Town Hall.

The Board discussed an issue regarding a property owner who was given incorrect information resulting in the downzoning of their property from R-5 to AG. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the possible ramifications that this could have on the Town. It was the consensus of the Board that the Town should allow this property to rezone back to R-5 and this should be done with haste.

Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that she would draft a legal memorandum for submission to staff with the Board's approval.

Following a brief discussion concerning farming issues, Ms. Daniels suggested that an appointment should be made with Chair Testa by residents to have issues placed on the agenda. These issues should be forwarded to Chair Testa by e-mail.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Testa discussed the issue of a resident who kept a horse in her back yard. She explained that the fence of this resident's property was set approximately four feet from the property line, adding that manure from the horse was dumped directly on the back of the fence. Chair Testa explained that this resident received a notice from the Code Enforcement Division indicating that she was improperly disposing of her manure and she had to make other arrangements.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Best Management Practices (BMP's) with Vice-Chair Aitken explaining that the BMP's had not yet been adopted, but rough draft had been compiled by Broward County and the main focus was about manure. Chair Testa indicated that she believed that the County's concerns addressing manure had to do with water run-off and water contamination. She commented that the run-off from the property went directly into the street so there was no threat of contamination. Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that the BMP's will govern how manure was handled and asked if this was a hobby farm, to which Chair Testa responded affirmatively. She added that the equine BMP's would cover both hobby farms and large horse farms. Vice-Chair Aitken suggested that Chair Testa contact Fred Segal of the Broward Farm Bureau and ask that he provide her with the final draft of Broward County's Equine BMP's. Chair Testa indicated that the Code Compliance Officer was told that unless he

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

MARCH 23, 2004

provided proof that this resident was in violation, she would continue to dispose of the manure by her fence. She added that the Code Compliance Officer was not aware that Council had passed a Hobby Farm Ordinance.

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments and/or suggestions.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member